

## ABSTRACT

[0058] The present invention relates to an absorbent article, such as a disposable diaper, comprising of a topsheet, barrier cuffs, an optional acquisition layer, an absorbent core, a barrier layer, and a backsheet. The diaper is arranged so as to create breathable zones of reduced stiffness surrounding the wearer's thighs. That is, the layers of material forming the diaper are arranged so the area surrounding the wearer's thighs includes only the backsheet, barrier cuffs and leg elastics. No liquid-impervious material is present within the breathable zones of reduced stiffness. Furthermore, these breathable zones of reduced stiffness preferably are formed so that only hydrophobic material is present. Thus, the present invention provides a better fitting, less irritating absorbent article by reducing the stiffness and increasing the breathability of the diaper in the area surrounding the wearer's thighs, resulting in increase comfort and fit around the wearer's thighs.